Alexis Arieff is a Specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where she supports Members of Congress and their staff with independent, nonpartisan policy analysis regarding North, West, and Central Africa. In her eleven years at CRS, Alexis has authored reports on U.S. policy responses to security challenges in the Sahel, political change and contestation in the Maghreb, and conflict and humanitarian crises in Africa's Great Lakes region, among other topics. Alexis has been detailed to policy offices at the State Department (in 2015) and Defense Department (in 2010), and has served as an international election observer in Tunisia and Guinea. She was a Fulbright scholar in Conakry, Guinea, in 2008-09. Before joining CRS, Alexis worked as a researcher on Africa for the Committee to Protect Journalists for three years, and completed shorter stints as a research fellow in the International Crisis Group's West Africa field office in Dakar, Senegal, and as a contributing writer to Freedom House. She has an MA in international relations from Yale University, focusing on security studies in Africa, and a BA from Brown University.